An Essay
on
Medicinal Palliation.

Respectfully Submitted
to the
Faculty

of the
Homoeopathic Medical College

Of Pennsylvania

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Gentlemen

In submitting this Essay, for your consideration, it will be necessary to notice some of the principles, upon which, the two great antagonistic systems of medicine, are based. And in viewing the palliative treatment of disease; I shall attempt to show, that the Allopathic system has its sheet anchor in this mode of treatment, or rather, that the formula Contraria Contrariis Curantur is only palliative. It will also be necessary, to draw a contrast between this and the Homoeopathic system; And in doing this I shall give what I believe to be the true sphere of palliative

remedies

The mode of treating disease by palliatives, has been and is, one of the main plays, of the Old School System of medicine; and the use of them, seems to strengthen the link between the Doctor, and the patient; as a usual thing, immediate relief follows the administration of a palliative; the natural conclusion of the patient is, that, if the Doctor can give such relief, he must certainly have a thorough knowledge of the disease, hence a strong opinion is formed in his favor; This is easily accounted for in the fact, that, present comfort, and enjoyment are the governing principles

in our nature.

Now, one of the main stays of the Old School system is the hold, that it gets on the public mind by this deceptive and apparent cure. I will not here attempt to discuss all the pernicious influences consequent upon this practice, as followed by the Allopathic School of medicine. It will not be amiss however, to notice some of their cases of treatment and the result of such practice; since I look upon the Allopathic formula Contraria Contrariis Curantur, as nothing more, nor less, than a system of palliation. That the system is not curative, but merely palliative, is shown in many instances by the

workings of nature herself: we have instances of the development of two different diseases in the organism at the same time; and we find the one having a more powerful influence in the system, perfectly controlling the other, which will remain hidden, until the stronger one subsides, then again develope itself

A subject may be attacked with measles. they may have made considerable progress: the small pox may be developing itself at the same time; upon its appearance, the measly eruption will entirely recede without leaving a trace, and so remain until the variola has run its course, then again appear and pass through its different stages

In this case the variola, acted only as a palliative to the measles, by subduing the violence of the action. For a time, by the more powerful influence it has upon the organism: here the disease was not cured by the variola; if it were true that by producing a contrary disease we could cure one already developed in the system, we might expect to see the measles eradicated by the variola. According to the allopathic formula, all that would be required would be to produce in the organism, some disease which would be directly the opposite to the one with which the organism is affected, either by the application of some local irritant, or by the administration of some drug

which will produce some functional derangement. What a fine thing it would be, if the Allopaths were able to drive a natural disease from the system, by creating by artificial means, one of an opposite nature; fine for the Doctor, for, all that would be necessary, would be to grab up some drug, and send it down the patients throat, and away would go the disease, medicine and ale, pushing through the alimentary canal, as though it was the conducting pipe to some Aqueous fountain; happy would it be for the patient, for a cure would surely follow.

There is reason to suppose, that the eyes of the physician as well as the

patient have been blinded by this deceptive action of drugs, and, no doubt led to the repeated dosing, which is the custom of the Old School profession: if this repetition of drugs could be continued without any deleterious influence to the constitution it would do, and all would go on well; we have abundant evidence that this has been most mischievous, and has often increased the miseries of the suffering patient

Look at those suffering with horrid bone pains, from the long continued use of some mercurial salt: or at the fever patient reduced to a mere skeleton by mercurial salivation: and tell me, if you can, that

there is any curative virtue in this kind of treatment.

There is a certain principle in the human organism which seeks to repel all impressions of a morbific nature. this same principle revolts with equal force against the specific impressions made by a drug; and she is fully adequate to the task provided the action is not too violent and not too long continued. but after a continued use of those deranging elements we find that over burdened nature retires from the contest, and leaves the medicine to its rule. this is one fruitful source of those diseases we call chronic.

Drugging is not the only evil to which

the allopaths resort: the practice of blood letting is another means, only palliative, for we see the complaint for which the blood is drawn, returning as soon as the equilibrium is restored. The nervous system will become less and less sensitive to the action of the drug, requiring the repeated dose to be very much increased to produce the required effect: The Opium eater is obliged to continually increase his daily potion to find the accustomed effect: so the practitioner finds that, upon each return of the disease, he has to increase his dose, or no relief will follow. The patient may be suffering from neuralgia: the use of some opiate will give temporary relief, and upon the

return of the pain another opiate must be taken, so the patient will go on with relief for a time by continually augmenting the dose: but sooner or later, he finds that the opiate will not answer the purpose and also that the disease is growing worse. this the Doctor very sagely assigns to the progress of the disease; when of nine cases in ten, it is but the result of a continued medicinal action on the nervous system. Dr. Wood in a publication on neuralgia says. "some of the most melancholy cases of Tic Douloureux which I have witnessed, have been where opium has been given to mitigate the pain. time after time the dose has (been) increased, until to the original morbid state.

inducing the neuralgia, has been superadded the marasmus of slow opium poisoning"

Thus the Allopath goes on, without knowing any thing about the innumerable troubles he is creating by the daily use of the powerful drugs, he is in the habit of administering; he never dreams that in numberless instances, he is physicking the patient for the very disease he has created by the repeated use of his misapplied drugs. Thus a great many are laboring under complicated diseases, produced by the use of palliative remedies. Such persons are seldom out of the hands of the Doctor; renewed doses of some new medicine will frequently have a

palliative effect, and give temporary relief; in this way the great evil is made ~~is~~ worse and worse until the constitution of the patient is either entirely broken down, or some new disease the consequence of the former, seizes upon a more vital organ and the drama is closed by death

A man may become confined in his bowels from some slight cause, the Doctor gives him a dose of physic, and his bowels are moved by its action: this is soon followed by constipation more obstinate ~~than~~ than before; for which another dose of physic must be taken; in this way the indications of nature are thwarted by depriving her of the very means she must use to reinstate herself

Again the Allopath, by his alteratives seeks to attract disease to some other tissue; in this he can often succeed, that is in removing the disease to another organ, but not always, nor often as he wishes; the disease often seeks a more vital organ and death is the consequence of this transition.

The alterative process seems to be this, not that the drug disease has any power to attract a disease from one part of the organism to another; but the enormous doses, which are necessary to accomplish this, have a degenerating influence on the system, and the organs on which the drug has a specific action becomes more powerfully affected than that morbifically diseased

hence the alteration is merely a mechanical force: the drug disease being the more powerful hides the natural one, by the same precep that the variola will palliate the measles: there is then no actual transition: but a new disease attacking different tissues: it would be absurd to produce, in a patient suffering with croup, an inflammation of the bowels: in hope of curing the croup in that way. yet I have seen this done by the Allopaths with their alterative doses:

Since that some Homoeopaths are willing to concede, that contraria will sometimes cure: this seems to be rather absurd since they contend that the law similia is the only true law

of cure, and at the same time admit that a principle directly the opposite, is partially true: where is the consistency in this: if the Homoeopathic law is true and who is there among the Homoeopaths that doubts it that there must be a similarity of action between the drug and the disease: or that the law of affinity as applied to medicine, is one of natures own making:

It is impopible for me to see how two opposite principles can accomplish the same thing: the law of similarity being true: the law contraria cannot be true: If there is an exception to the law contraria, there must likewise be a corresponding exception to the law similia: we find no exception in the

"Homoeopathic law" consequently we are warranted in calling it a true principle. hence we cannot with propriety admit any curative principle in the opposite. The explanation given is that the drug may affect an organ which is sympathetic to the one already diseased and thereby produce a cure by a sympathetic action; if the drug acts on an organ, that is in sympathy with the one diseased, there must be some similarity. In looking upon the functional operations of the organism, I cannot separate ~~xxxx~~ any one portion of the system from an other and call it an independent function. consequently there would be a sympathetic action upon the application of any drug whatever. hence one

drug would answer for any disease;
here then would be a cure by contraria.
Again, if there have been any cures
following the administration of a con-
trary remedy, it can be shown from
statistics, from several trials in a hospi-
tal in Paris, that a greater number
in one hundred, for whom the trials
were made, recovered when left entirely
to nature, without any medicine what-
ever, than in the one hundred with
the same diseases, under Allopathic
treatment: if nature then, by following
her own laws is more curative, we can
not see any reason for believing a
principle curative, which is directly
contrary to her laws. Therefore it is un-
tenable to attribute any power of cure

to the principle embodied in the formula Contraria Contrariis Curantur. Hence we must conclude that the effect is only palliative.

Great indeed was the time when our Illustrious Hahnemann proclaimed to the world the true method of cure, and taught that disease is an immaterial agent instead of a material, as was formerly supposed; and also that there must be a similarity of action between the disease and the remedy.

Each drug possesses a power to produce in the organism a train of symptoms peculiar to itself; so that in each drug we have different phenomena: this principle we cannot call

a materiae thing, no more than we can the morbific principle; We see in the drug principle symptoms produced which are a perfect type of the symptoms produced by the morbific agent; hence we conclude that there is some dynamic relation or affinity between the drug and the natural disease; If there is any affinity, there must be a similarity of action between them, therefore, the medicinal principle would seek for its cycle the same tissue that is already diseased; hence there are two diseases of a similar nature set up in the same tissue at the same time, which cannot exist, for any considerable length of time, consequently, there must be some neutralizing proces, and a

cure of the disease! here then is a di-
-rect application to the diseased part-
without leaving any painful symptoms
behind.

The principle of similia is
verified by the Allopaths, who unwit
tingly apply this principle in the
application of cold to frosted feet-
which will remove all the bad ef-
-fects, and effect a cure,

Again, where is the Allopath who would
dare to apply cold to a burn, though the
relief would be instantaneous; experience
has taught him, that the application
of heat: (similia similibus curantur), is
the surest way to eradicate the evil effects
that follow. The Homoeopath, seeks to
produce a medicinal action in the

tipsee, just equal in intensity to the natural dyscrasia; and if he is able to accomplish this, there must be a complete neutralization of both: consequently an entire elimination of the medicinal and morbific diseases.

Therefore from this we infer that palliatives are of little use, as curative agents in the treatment of diseases; yet there are instances where it is necessary to use them; Morphine is a God send to the dying consumptive, and to refuse it would be unkindness, though the relief it affords is only transient; also in cases of Urinary calculi in the ureters, it is an indispensable agent in mitigating the pain, and nervous excitement always accompanying their passage. Poultices,

also, may be used in suppurating tumors and sores, by the moisture, they impart, and by their presence, hasten the process by which a cure is accomplished.

In these cases, palliatives are admissible; but, where there is a hope of curing any disease, by medicinal agents; it would be unpardonable to resort to any means by which, we may mitigate the symptoms but not stop the progress of the malady. Therefore I would not recommend the use of such remedies, since we have in the law similia a universal curative principle. The law pervades the whole machinery of nature; where this law prevails, "there is the condition of peace, of health, and of universal harmony."